

PM laments unending Middle East conflict

KUALA LUMPUR: The situation in several parts of the Middle East is saddening, says Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim amid the ongoing conflict in the region.

Anwar said Israel's atrocities since the attack on Gaza nearly a year ago had now spilt over to Lebanon.

"We insisted that the attack on Gaza be stopped, but the attacks continue and has even expanded to Lebanon. After this, what else?"

Israel conducted 11 consecutive strikes on southern Beirut late on Thursday, in one of the most violent raids since it began its campaign last week. Earlier, a massive airstrike targeted a warehouse near the Beirut-Rafic Hariri International Airport.

The Israel-Gaza conflict has claimed the lives of thousands, many of whom were women and children.

Anwar said a concerted effort and commitment from Arab na-

tions, Islamic countries and the United Nations was needed to stop the conflict.

Meanwhile, Wisma Putra confirmed four Malaysians were evacuated from Lebanon, following the ongoing airstrikes and bombing between Israelis and Palestinians.

They reached Malaysia safely yesterday morning.

"Another Malaysian is expected to arrive at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport later today," Wisma Putra said yesterday.

It said the Malaysian Embassy in Beirut had facilitated their departure from Beirut via commercial aircraft.

There are 16 Malaysians still waiting to be evacuated and efforts are underway to safely evacuate them.

"The ministry is fully committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of Malaysian citizens in Lebanon. The Embassy of Malaysia in Beirut will continue to monitor the situation."

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DATUK SERI ANWAR IBRAHIM

Prime minister